



PCT/AU2004/000944

REC'D 28 JUL 2004
WIPO PCT

Patent Office
Canberra

I, JULIE BILLINGSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003906166 for a patent by THERESA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED as filed on 10 November 2003.



WITNESS my hand this
Twenty-second day of July 2004

JULIE BILLINGSLEY
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

Theresa International Limited

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title:

Juicer chute

The invention is described in the following statement:

Title**Juicer chute****Technical Field**

5 This invention concerns a juicer, that is a machine for extracting the juice from fruit and vegetables. Such machines are used domestically, and also commercially in restaurants, cafes and juice bars.

Background Art

10 Juicers receive fruit or vegetables, either whole or cut into a suitable size; where the skin is unpalatable or undesired it must be removed first. Juicers operate in different ways to extract the juice, but one popular way is by grating or shredding the fruit, separating the resulting pith and juice, and then dispensing the juice.

15 Citrus juicers extract the juice from cut citrus fruit without removing the peel, and generally operate in a different manner to other juicers. In citrus style juicers the cut surface of the fruit is pressed onto a pyramidal hub and then squeezed and rotated relative to the hub to convert almost the entire contents of the fruit to liquid. The peel is then discarded.

20 Disclosure of the Invention

The invention is a juicer for fruit and vegetables, comprising:

An electric motor having a driven output shaft.

A shredder mounted for rotation about its axis to the output shaft of the motor.

A feed tube to deliver pieces to be juiced to the shredder for juicing.

25 Where the feed tube has an inner diameter of more than 75mm, and three, or more, inwardly directed formations are arranged to constrict the interior of the feed tube.

30 The inner diameter of the feed tube may be large enough for a typical apple to pass through it whole; it may be 85mm or more. The inwardly directed formations serve to prevent the insertion of a hand or arm into or through the feed tube despite its large diameter.

35 The inwardly directed formations may be arranged about a collar at the top of the feed tube. Alternatively, the formations may be integrated into the walls of the feed tube. The formations may comprise ribs running down the collar or down the length of the walls of the feed tube. In a particularly preferred embodiment the feed tube has

nine equispaced inwardly directed ribs, each 5.5mm high or more. In this way the clear inner diameter is reduced to 75mm or a little less.

5 The shredder may have toothed sidewalls with axial symmetry, and it may be frusto-conical in shape. It may be oriented downwards and mounted at its apex to the output shaft of the motor. It may also be mounted on bearings arranged around its wide end. The teeth may be arranged on the inner surface of the cone. A conical sieve may extend from the wide end of the shredder. The lower end of the feed tube may be positioned adjacent the toothed sidewalls of the shredder.

10 A lid assembly may enclose the conical sieve. It may provide a spout extending downwardly from sieve to dispense juice into a beaker. It may also provide a pulp receiving chamber offset to one side of the sieve. The rotating action of the shredder, the offset angle of axis and a change in direction between the shredder and sieve walls may serve to throw the pulp and juice up out of the shredder into the chamber and spout.

15 A further invention provides fan blades around the top edge of the sieve to clear pulp from accumulating there and to move it into the pulp receiving chamber.

Brief Description of the Drawings

20 An example of this invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a sectional view through a juicer.

Fig. 2 is a plan view into the feed tube.

Fig. 3 is a pictorial view of the feed tube and pusher.

Fig. 4 is a detailed sectional view of the juicer of Fig. 1 in use.

25 Fig. 5 is pictorial view of a conical sieve fitted with fan blades. And,

Fig. 6 is a partial section view of a shredder, sieve and pulp collecting chamber.

Best Mode of the Invention

30 The juicer 10 is designed to sit on a counter top and comprises a main unit 20, a lid assembly 40 and a juice receiving beaker 60.

An electric motor 22 is mounted inside the main unit 20, and has its output shaft 23 lying on axis 24 offset from the vertical. The output shaft is connected to a shredder 25. Shredder 25 is generally frusto-conical in shape and is also aligned with axis 24. It is oriented downwards and mounted at its apex 26 to the output shaft 23. It is also mounted on bearings 27 supported by the housing of the main unit 20. A generally conical sieve 28 extends above the upper part of the shredder. A lateral extension 29 of

the upper part of the shredder 25 extends to cover over the bearings 27 and the join with the lid assembly 40.

The lid assembly 40 encloses the conical sieve 28. It provides a spout 41 extending downwardly from sieve 28 to dispense juice into beaker 60. It also provides 5 a pulp receiving chamber 42 offset to one side of the sieve 28, and a fruit or vegetable receiving feed tube 43 which extends vertically down through the lid into the sieve 25. A 'pusher' 44 is provided with a handle 45 and a closed tubular body sized to sit inside tube 43.

Referring now to Figs. 2 and 3, the fruit or vegetable receiving tube 43, or feed 10 tube, is seen to have an inner diameter of 85mm. 85mm is large enough for many apples to be inserted down the feed tube whole. Nine ribs, one of which is marked 100, are each 5.5mm high and are equispaced around the inner face of a collar 101 mounted at the upper end of the feed tube. The nine ribs 100 reduce the clear inside diameter of 15 the feed tube to 74mm. This improves safety by restricting the feed tube to the extent that it is difficult for user to insert a hand down it. The body of the pusher 44 is shaped 102 to accommodate the ribs, as shown in Fig. 3, so that it can enter the feed tube and push the fruit or vegetables down to the lower end.

Referring in addition to Fig. 4 the juicer will be now be described in greater detail together with its operation and use. The inner surface 30 of shredder 25 is 20 covered with teeth 31 around its sidewalls 32 and on its apex surface 33. Teeth 31 are oriented to tear when the shredder is spun about axis 24 in the direction indicated by arrow 34. The lower end 47 of feed tube 43 enters the shredder 25 and opens all along the sidewall 32 and partly along apex surface 33. When the motor 22 is energised its output shaft 23 spins, causing entire shredder 25 to spin about axis 24 in the direction 25 indicated by arrow 34.

Referring now to Fig. 5 sieve 28 is seen to have an upper rim 110 of plastics material bearing 10 integrally moulded fan blades, one of which is indicated at 110.

In use, fruit or vegetables are whole or cut into pieces small enough to enter tube 43. Because the inner diameter of the feed tube 43 is 85mm a whole apple 50 can pass 30 through it. The apple 50 is pushed into the top of the feed tube, passing through the collar 101 and being scored by ribs 100 if it large enough to engage them. The apple can then fall freely through the remainder of the tube. Pusher 44 can be used to help the apple past the ribs if necessary. The motor is connected to the mains electricity supply by means of a conventional lead and plug, and the motor is energised. The 35 pieces 50 are pushed down tube 43 by pusher 46 and exit at the lower open end 47.

Here the pieces 50 are shown to meet the rotating teeth 31, and are torn up, converting them to pulp and juice.

The rotating action of the shredder and the offset angle of axis 24 throws the pulp and juice up out of the shredder in a predictable direction. The sieve wall is offset 5 at a small angle, say 8° , to the shredder wall. This has the effect of slowing down the exit of pulp and juice out of the shredder. The pulp is thrown up in direction 51 out of the shredder 25 and sieve 28. Chamber 42 is located to receive and collect the pulp 52, and the lid 40 is shaped to guide the pulp into the chamber. At the same time the juice 10 is thrown up the sides of sieve 28 where it passes through in the direction indicated by arrows 53. Any pulp entrained in the juice is collected on the surface of sieve 28 where it falls back into the shredder and is again thrown out. The juice is drained away by spout 41 and collected 54 in beaker 60.

Referring further to Fig. 6 the fan blades 120 around the upper rim 110 of sieve 28 stir up strong air currents 140 to carry pulp into the pulp receiving chamber 42 and 15 prevent it from accumulating and blocking the passage from the sieve to the pulp receiving chamber. An air vent 160 above the pulp receiving chamber allows the spent air 150 to escape.

The multiple bearings 26 and 27 serve to stabilize the shredder against the force exerted down on it by the pusher, and this in turn protects the bearings of the motor, the 20 overall effect is to provide longevity to the moving parts. The offset axis 24 allows the pieces to be introduced vertically and be delivered to the sidewall 32 of the shredder 25. Tearing the pieces occurs by the transverse movement of the teeth across substantially the entire open end of tube 50, causing efficient shredding. The lateral movement of the teeth also tends to entrain the pieces and prevents them from spinning. 25

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as 30 illustrative and not restrictive.

Dated this tenth day of November 2003

Theresa International Limited
Patent Attorneys for the Applicant:
F B RICE & CO

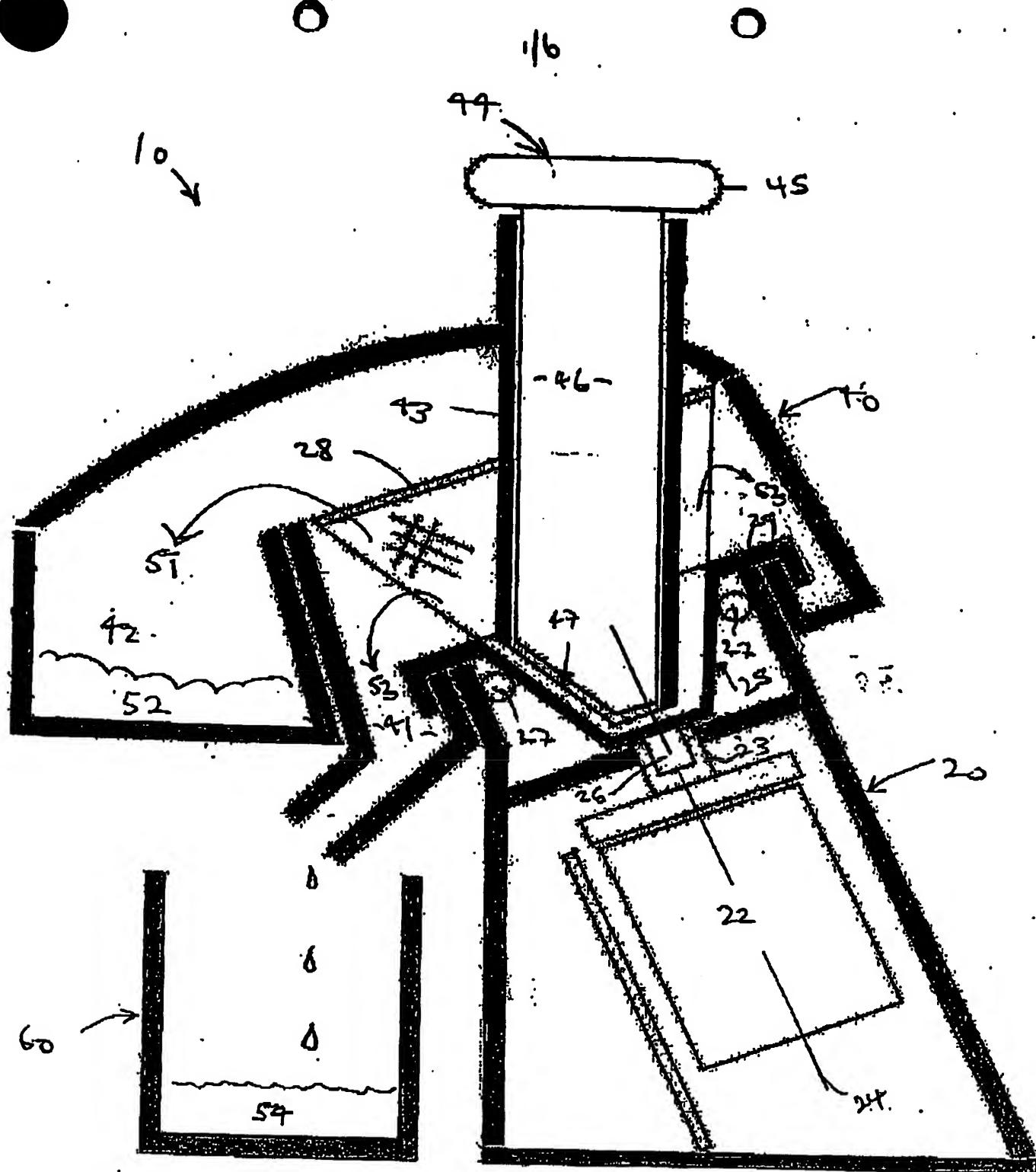


Fig. 1

43

2/6

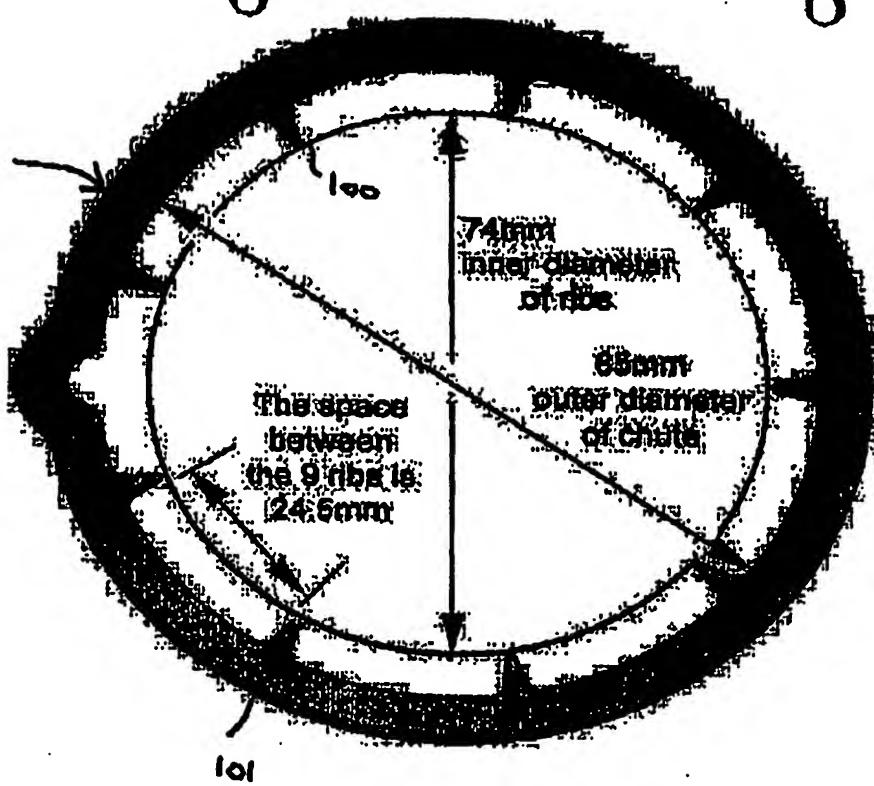
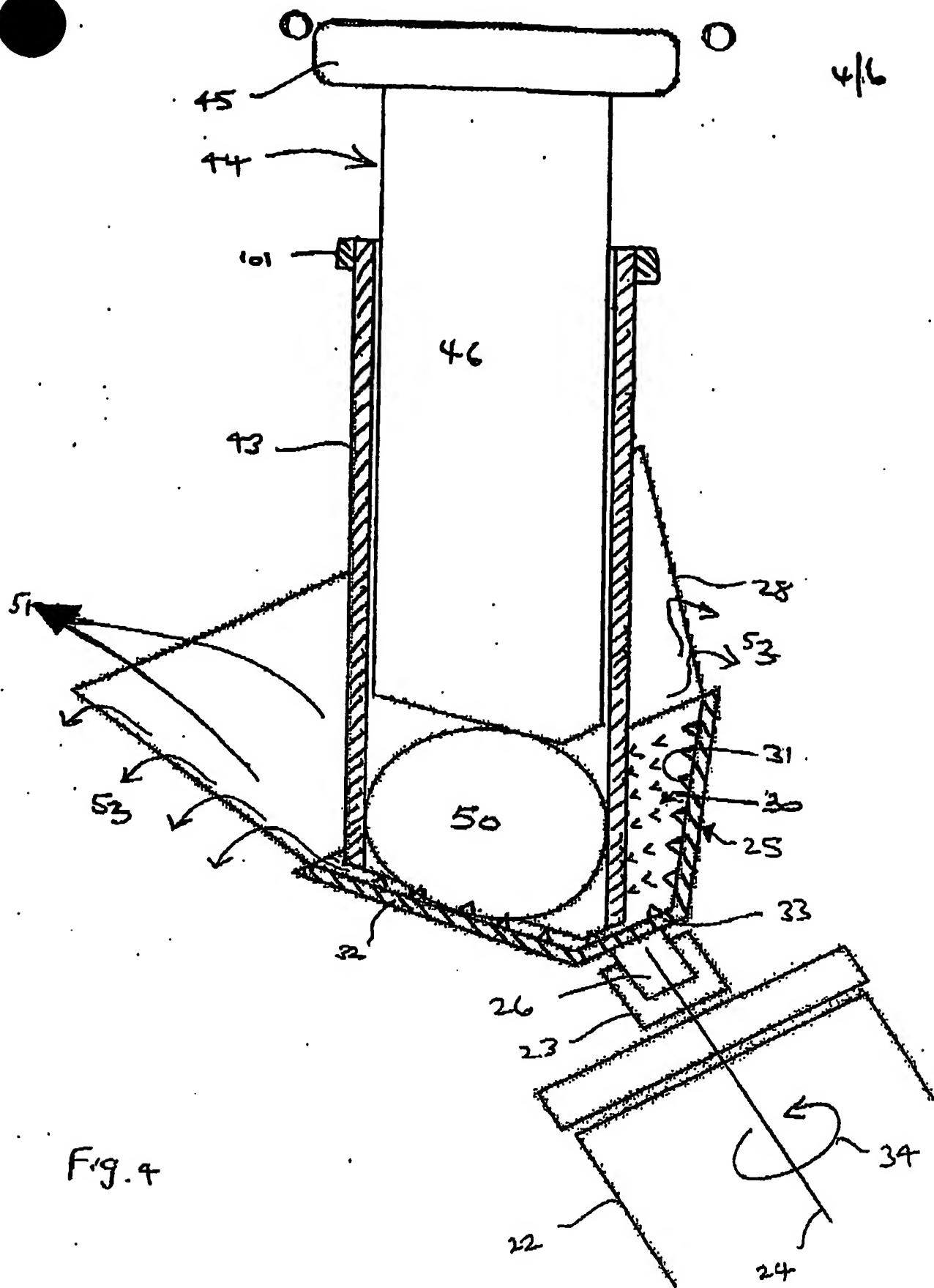


Fig. 2

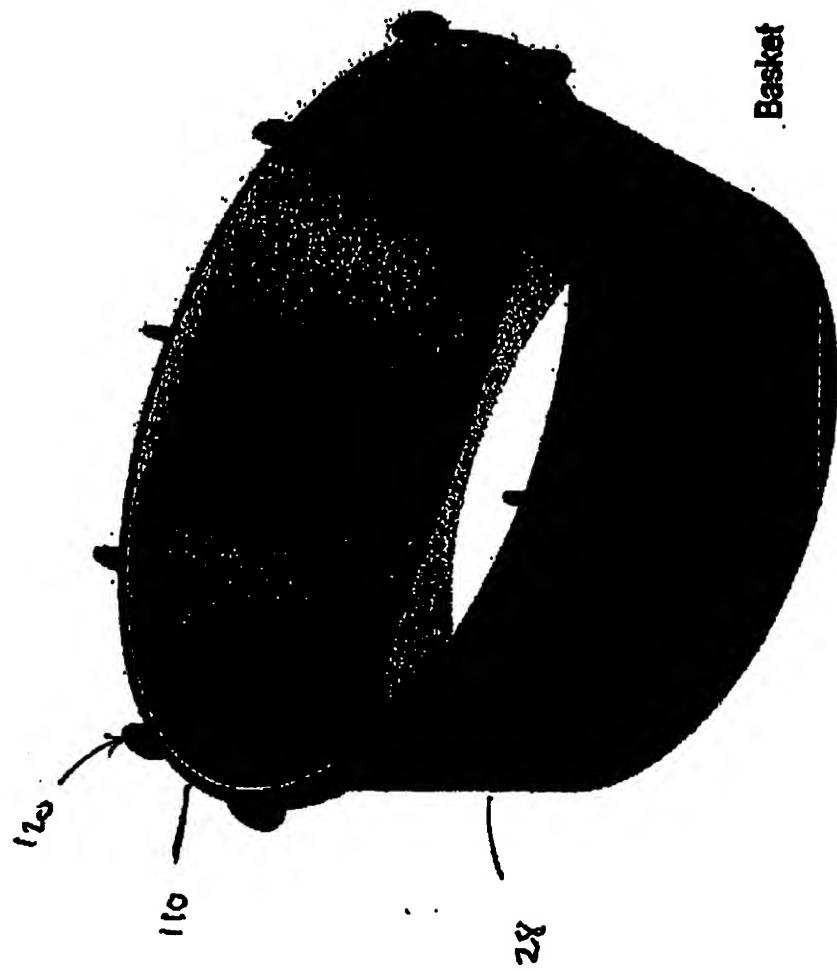


Fig. 3

3/6



516



5

616

This is a section of the juicer. I believe that having a fan and a vent between the top cover and the pulp container will move the pump away from the under side of the top cover.

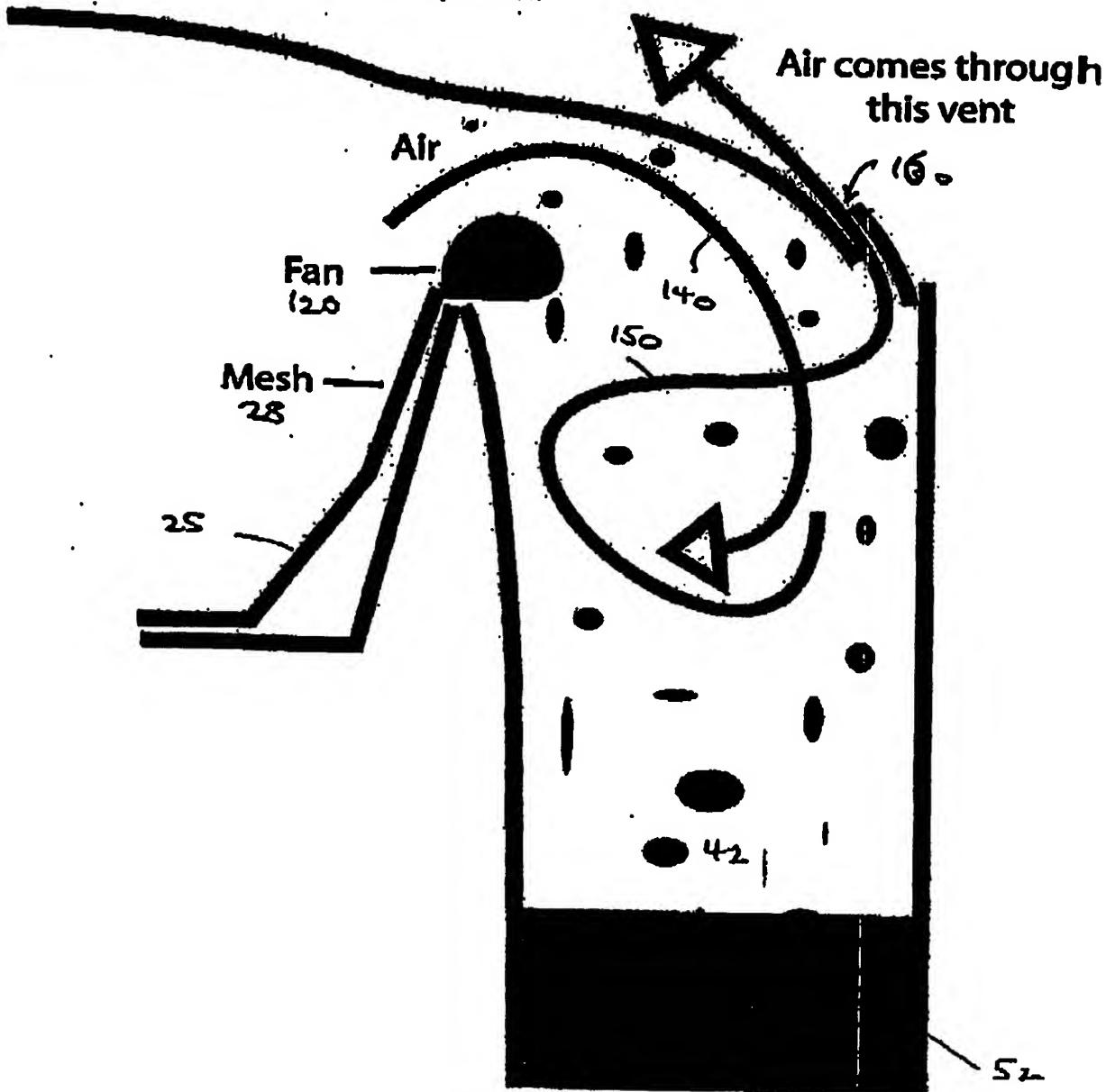


Fig. 6

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.